

Western Civilization I : Ancient Near East to 1648

Description of the Examination

The Subject Examination in Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648 tests subject matter usually covered in the first semester of a two-semester course in Western Civilization. Questions deal with the civilizations of the Ancient Near East, Greece, and Rome; the Middle Ages; the Renaissance and Reformation; and early modern Europe. Candidates may be asked to choose the correct definition of a historical term, select the historical figure whose political viewpoint is described, identify the correct relationship between two historical factors, or detect the inaccurate pairing of an individual with a historical event. Groups of questions may require candidates to interpret, evaluate, or relate the contents of a passage, a map, a picture, or a cartoon to other information, or to analyze and utilize the data contained in a graph or table.

The exam is 90 minutes long and contains approximately 120 multiple-choice questions to be answered in two separately timed 45-minute sections.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the exam require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Understanding of important factual knowledge of developments in Western Civilization (about 25-35 percent of the exam)
- Ability to identify the causes and effects of major historical events (about 5-15 percent of the exam)
- Ability to analyze, interpret, and evaluate textual and graphic materials (about 20-30 percent of the exam)
- Ability to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant (about 15-25 percent of the exam)
- Ability to reach conclusions on the basis of facts (about 10-20 percent of the exam)

The subject matter of the Western Civilization I exam is drawn from the following topics.

Approximate Percent of Examination

8-11%	<u>Ancient Near East</u>
15-17%	<u>Ancient Greece and Hellenistic Civilization</u>
15-17%	<u>Ancient Rome</u>
23-27%	<u>Medieval History</u>
13-17%	<u>Renaissance and Reformation</u>
10-15%	<u>Early Modern Europe, 1560-1648</u>

Study Resources

To prepare for the Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648 and Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present exams, you should study the appropriate chapters in at least one college textbook in this subject. Most textbooks cover the historical periods from the Ancient Near East to the Present and can, therefore, be used in preparing for either or both of the exams. Most Western Civilization textbooks cover approximately the same chronological span, but the material they emphasize differs. You can find these textbooks in most college bookstores. When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the "Knowledge and Skills Required" section. Your local college bookstore is a good place to look for college-level textbooks.

You will find it helpful to supplement your reading with books listed in the bibliographies found in most history textbooks. In addition, contemporary novels and plays, as well as works by Homer, Shakespeare, and Dickens, provide rich sources of information. Classic works of nonfiction are equally valuable; for example, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, Mill's *On Liberty*, and Paine's *The Rights of Man*. Books of documents are an excellent source for sampling primary materials; *A Documentary History of Modern Europe*, edited by T. G. Barnes and G. D. Feldman (Little, Brown), is one such collection. Actual works of art in museums can bring to life not only the reproductions found in books but history itself. Films such as *A Man for All Seasons* and *The Return of Martin Guerre* and television series such as "Civilisation," "I, Claudius," "Elizabeth R," and the "Ascent of Man" provide enjoyable reinforcement to what is learned through reading. The Internet is another resource you should explore.